

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 CCO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:RANDERSON:AVW

APPROVED BY S/PRS:RANDERSON

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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O 291746Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 178445 TOSEC 080120

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJ: MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT, JULY 29

FOR BREMER AND COVEY FROM ANDERSON, S/PRS

FOLLOWING REPORT WAS HEARD THIS MORNING ON CBS RADIO:

QUOTE: WHY IS THE PRESIDENT IN HELSINKI AND WHY THE NEED  
HE APPARENTLY FEELS TO SIGN A DECLARATION OF GOOD WILL?

PRESIDENT FORD IS NOT ALONE IN HELSINKI AND IF HE IS MAKING  
A MISTAKE BY BEING THERE, AS MANY OF HIS CRITICS CHARGE,  
THEN HIS CONTROVERSIAL JUDGMENT IS AT LEAST WIDELY SHARED.

THIRTY-FOUR OTHER HEADS OF STATE OR GOVT HAVE JOINED HIM  
IN THE FINNISH CAPITAL FOR THREE DAYS OF BILATERAL AND  
MULTILATERAL TOGETHERNESS, THE UPSHOT OF WHICH WILL BE A  
WORDY DOCUMENT THAT TOOK THE RUSSIANS TWENTY YEARS TO  
ENCOURAGE AND EVERYONE TWO YEARS TO COMPOSE THAT WILL FINALLY  
RATIFY THE POST-WW II BOUNDARIES OF EUROPE -- IN OTHER WORDS  
THE DIVISION OF EUROPE AND IN THE PROCESS HELP SOLIDIFY  
SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV'S CONTROL OVER HIS COUNTRY AND HIS  
PARTY. IF ANY HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL HAS BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC  
ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE HELSINKI SUMMIT HE HAS KEPT THAT  
ENTHUSIASM UNDER TIGHT CHECK. MR. FORD MAY GET THE OPPOR-  
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TUNITY TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS  
LIMITATION AGREEMENT WHEN HE MEETS TWICE WITH BREZHNEV,

AND HE MAY ALSO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF ALLIED UNITY WHEN HE

MEETS WITH THE LEADERS OF WEST GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, GREECE AND POSSIBLY TURKEY. CLEARLY HIS POLITICAL ADVISORS BACK HOME ARE NOT OBLIVIOUS TO THE PRESUMED BENEFITS OF FOREIGN TRAVEL -- PRESSING THE FLESH IN RUMANIA, POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA AND STANDING OR SITTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE RULERS OF EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE -- ALL OF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD PR FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANCED MEN -- PROOF TELEVISED NIGHT AFTER NIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S GRASP ON FOREIGN POLICY. SO, THERE ARE POTENTIAL PLUSSES TO THIS CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, NONE TO BE DISCOUNTED EASILY IN ANY APPRAISAL. BUT THE QUESTION WHY? WHY THE TRIP? WHY THE DOCUMENT? THIS QUESTION REMAINS.

NO HIGH OFFICIAL, AS WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED, IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS SUMMIT. SHAM, POLITICS AND WORSE HAVE BEEN THEIR PRIVATE DESCRIPTIONS, BUT THEY ONLY CONCEAL THE REAL MOTIVATION. THESE OFFICIALS INCLUDING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, HAVE A VERY LOW PRIVATE ESTIMATE OF AMERICA'S CAPACITY AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT OF HISTORY. THEY WILL NEVER ADMIT THIS PUBLICLY, IN FACT, PUBLICLY THEY SAY JUST THE OPPOSITE; BUT THEIR SOMBER ESTIMATE HAS THESE COMPONENTS: VIETNAM THEY FEEL HAS SAPPED THIS COUNTRY'S STRENGTH MORE THAN ANYONE IS PREPARED TO CONCEDE, DRAINING CONGRESS' WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT AMERICAN POWER TO OTHER TWILIGHT PARTS OF THE WORLD. INFLATION, CAPPED BY THE CONSTANT ARAB LED THREAT TO IMPOSE ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO, THIS HAS LED TO A NEAR DEPRESSION WHICH ONLY NOW SHOWS SIGNS OF BOTTOMING OUT, AS THE ECONOMISTS PUT IT, AND IMPROVING IN TIME. AFTER THESE ROSE THE WRENCHING EXPERIENCE OF WATERGATE, THE HUMILIATION OF A PRESIDENT RESIGNING AND HIS CLOSEST ADVISORS BEING INDICTED FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. THE COMBINATION OF THESE MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIABILITIES HAS BADLY AFFECTED FOREIGN POLICY TOO. IN KISSINGER'S MIND THIS ALL ADDS UP TO A PRESCRIPTION FOR TEMPTATION ON RUSSIA'S PART, CAUTION ON AMERICA'S. HE SEES THE NATIONAL CONDITION AS HAVING BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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SO WEAKENED BY THE VARIOUS FACTORS THAT HE THINKS IT IS EASIER TO YIELD TO RUSSIA ON ESSENTIALLY UNIMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS HELSINKI AND CONSERVE WHATEVER STRENGTH AMERICA HAS LEFT FOR THE BIG THINGS -- EUROPE, THE ME, JAPAN. IN THIS CAUTIOUS, DEFENSIVE APPROACH HE HAS A PARTNER IN THE PRESIDENT -- AN APPROACH BASED ON A PRESUMED NEED TO BUY TIME FOR AMERICA TO RETURN TO HER FORMER STRENGTH AND GLORY. END QUOTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE178445  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** S/PRS:RANDERSON:AVW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750261-0454  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197507107/baaaaqnx.tel  
**Line Count:** 106  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PRS  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971021  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** SOPN, US, SOPN, (KALB, MARVIN), (KISSINGER HENRY A)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006